

**REMARKS/ARGUMENT**

The abstract of the disclosure has been formally amended in accordance with the Examiner's requirement and to conform it to amended claim 1.

The claims have been amended to to overcome the objections and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. All the claims are now directed to a combination. Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to recite the disclosed subject matter in a manner to distinguish more clearly over the references.

The shuttered connector defined in amended claim 1 has the advantages that its height is lower than conventional connectors, i.e. it is a thin connector, and that it can be readily assembled because the shutter can be easily incorporated into the connector. The shutter is opened outwards, with the inclined surface of the shutter being pushed by the slanted surface of the mating connector when the shuttered connector is connected to the mating connector.

Horikoshi et al, the primary reference, discloses a flat actuation mechanism for an electronic unit. The shutters 40A and 40B are placed inside the housing (32), as shown in Figs. 3 and 5. Accordingly, since the shutter is accommodated in the

housing, the connector must be made to have a size relatively large in an opening direction of the shutter. In addition, the shutter is fitted to the housing by means of a part which is not included in the connector. Accordingly, the shutter cannot easily be assembled to the connector and requires parts more than that in the present invention.

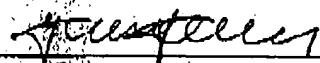
Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 9-11 are respectfully submitted neither to be anticipated by Horikushi et al under 35 U.S.C. 103(c), nor to be obvious therefrom under Sec. 103(a).

As to Hwang, the secondary reference held against claims 7 and 8, it discloses a guide rail for receiving a GBIC module having a frame. Fig. 3 shows a shutter or door (32) provided in a port (23) of the frame (10). The shutter (32) opens inside but does not open outside. On the other hand, in the present invention, the shutter opens outward.

A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-11 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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